

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
FLAT MAIL SORTING PREPARATION**

**Abstract**

A method of preparing flat articles for sorting includes the steps of: (1) 5 receiving a bundle of flat items to be sorted, the bundle being wrapped with a flexible film such that the film forms an enclosed package of flat items, (2) placing the bundles on a substantially horizontal, substantially frictionless work surface, moving the bundle adjacent at least one film slitter, the film slitter being automatically activated when the bundle is moved adjacent the film slitter, (3) removing the cut film 10 from the flat items, and (4) stacking the unbundled flat items in a cartridge.